Returning an UST System to Service

If an UST system has been out of service or temporarily closed for one year or more, the owner must complete the procedures below for activating the UST system and receive approval from the DNR UST Section before the UST system is returned to service.

Do not activate the UST system until the following procedures are completed:

1. Demonstrate that temporary closure requirements have been met [135.15(1)], that is, the UST system has been empty, or if not empty, leak detection monitoring was conducted and records are available; tank management fees have been paid and are current, corrosion protection has been maintained; insurance has been in place as long as possible and a site check was completed before the insurance expired. Remove any water from the tank.

2. If the UST system has external cathodic protection (other than fiberglass), arrange for a cathodic protection tester to measure the potentials on the UST system to ensure it is adequately protected and that the corrosion system is working properly. If the UST system is protected by an impressed current cathodic protection system and the power has been interrupted (turned off) for six months to a year, an integrity assessment of the tank system (manned entry) is required. If the power to an impressed current system has been turned off for more than a year, the UST system must be permanently closed as it no longer meets temporary closure requirements of 135.15(1). The UST system must pass cathodic protection testing to return to service.

3. In order for lined tanks (with no external protection) to be brought back into service after a year or more of temporary closure, an internal inspection conducted by a third party must be conducted (either physical entry into the tank or video inspection) to ensure the tanks are suitable for operation. Tanks that fail or have inconclusive results must conduct an integrity assessment to determine whether it is suitable to be brought back into service.

4. Make sure the spill containment, sumps and under dispenser containment is in good shape (i.e., no corrosion, cracks, perforations or damage). Containment sumps and UDCs must be liquid tight. Sumps and UDCs installed after August 2007 must be visually inspected every other year and sensing devices must be tested every other year.

5. Perform a precision test (0.1 gph leak rate) on the tanks. If an automatic tank gauging (ATG) system is installed and operational, you may use that to test the tanks. Tanks must be filled to 85-90 percent capacity for testing. If you do not have an ATG system, contact a third party tank tester and arrange for a precision test. You may use either a volumetric (overfill) or non-volumetric (under fill) method of testing. The under fill method requires much less product for testing. Remember all methods must be third party evaluated and listed with the National

Workgroup on Leak Detection Evaluations (NWGLDE). If a tank fails the precision test, it must be emptied immediately.

6. Perform a precision test on the pressurized product lines. If an ATG system is installed and operational and capable of testing the product lines at a 0.1 gph leak rate, you may use it to test the lines. If you do not have an ATG system capable of a precision test, contact a third party line tightness tester to arrange for a precision or annual line tightness test. Statistical Inventory Reconciliation (SIR) is not a suitable method of conducting precision tests of product lines.

7. Perform a function test of the automatic line leak detector on your pressurized product line or suction line. Contact a product line or line leak detector tester to arrange for a test of your electronic or mechanical line leak detector to ensure it is capable of detecting the size leaks specified by the rules and that it is third party evaluated and listed by the National Work on Leak Detection Evaluations. Safer suction lines, where there is one ground level check valve at the dispenser and product drains back to the tanks, do not need to conduct line tightness testing.

8. Obtain an approved method of financial responsibility (UST insurance). UST insurance is required for all regulated underground storage tank systems at the time they go into service until they are permanently closed.

9. Ensure proper operation of spill and overfill equipment.

10. Check all visible systems and equipment to ensure they are in good condition for start up and operation.

11. An UST system that has been temporarily closed and emptied cannot have product transferred to it for testing or operation until approved by the DNR UST Section. Contact the UST Section for delivery authorization for tank tightness testing. It is illegal for transporters to deposit product without current tank management tags.

12. Submit all paperwork, including tank and line leak detector, corrosion and line leak detector functional test results, certificate of UST insurance, 148 or registration form (if ownership or equipment is changed) with correct and current information to the address below:

Underground Storage Tank Section
Wallace State Office Building
502 E 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

Call 515.281.8941